

DETAILED ACTION

1. Status of the instant application:

Claims 2-3, 5-7, and 10 are cancelled in the instant application.

Claims 1, 4, 8-11 are currently amended in the instant application.

Claims 12-16 are previously presented

Claims 1, 4, 8-9, and 11-16 are pending in the instant application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicants amendments and remarks and arguments filed 01/14/2010 have been fully considered and are found to be persuasive, please see the office action below for details.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas E. Kocovsky, Reg. # 28,383 on 02/19/2010.

5. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims

6. Insert where underlined and delete where ~~striketrough~~ in claims 1-4, and 8-11.
7. Claim 1. A method of determining whether an encoded signal has been encoded with a particular type of encoder, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving at least a part of said encoded signal;
 - decoding the received signal using a decoder which performs the reverse operation of said particular type of encoder to generate a decoded signal;
 - deriving a fingerprint from the decoded signal;
 - comparing said fingerprint with one or more fingerprints stored in a database indicative of one or more particular types of encoder;
 - ~~and~~ concluding that the encoded signal has been encoded with said one or more particular type of encoder if the derived fingerprint corresponds to one of the fingerprints stored in the database;
 - wherein said steps are performed by a server which receives the encoded signal from a client through a network;

and awarding the client if the server concluded that the received and decoded signal had been encoded with said one or more particular types of encoder.

8. Claim 2. (Cancelled)

9. Claim 3. (Cancelled)

10. Claim 4. The method as claimed in claim 3 1, wherein said step of awarding comprises:

retrieving from the database metadata associated with the signal, and transmitting said metadata to the client.

11. Claim 8. A system, comprising a non-transitory, computer readable storage medium, such as a memory, which stores a set of instructions and a processor which executes the set of instructions, the set of instructions being operable to control the processor to:

receive at least a part of said encoded signal from a client through a network;

decode the received signal using a decoder which performs a reverse operation of said particular type of encoder to generate a decoded signal;

derive a fingerprint from the decoded signal;

compare said fingerprint with one or more fingerprints stored in a database of one or more particular type of encoder;

~~and~~ determine whether the encoded signal has been encoded with said particular type of encoder by determining whether the derived fingerprint corresponds to one of the fingerprints stored in the database;

and awarding the client if the received and decoded signal had been encoded with said one or more particular types of encoder.

12. Claim 9. A server configured to receive from a client via a network encoded files encoded by the client using a selected one of plurality of encoding operations, the server comprising:

a decoder configured to perform a decoding operation to decode the encoded files received from the client to generate a decoded file;

a fingerprint extraction unit configured to extract a fingerprint from the decoded file;

a database configured to store one or more fingerprints identifying fingerprints indicative of one or more of the encoding operations; and

a processor configured to compare the extracted fingerprint from the decoded file with the one or more fingerprints stored in the database and determine whether the extracted fingerprint corresponds to a selected one of the encoding operations;

wherein in response to the processor concluding that the received encoded files have been encoded using the one or more selected encoding operations, the processor communicates an award to the client.

13. Claim 10. (Cancelled)

14. Claim 11. The server as claimed in claim ~~40~~ 9, wherein the award includes metadata associated with the encoded file, the metadata being transmitted to the client.

Allowable Subject Matter

15. Claims 1, 4, 8-9, and 11-16 are allowed.

Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HO SHIU whose telephone number is (571)270-3810. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur (8:30am - 4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2457

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HTS
02/22/2010

/Ho Ting Shiu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2457

/ARIO ETIENNE/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2457